

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: July 13, 1965

SUBJECT: Japan Council for International Understanding, Southeast Asian Development, Japanese Attitudes Re Viet-Nam, and Okinawa

PARTICIPANTS: Nobutaka Shikanai, President, Nippon Broadcasting System and Fuji Telecasting Company, Ltd., Tokyo, Japan
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COPIES TO: Robert A. Fearey, Director for East Asian Affairs
Carl G. Seasword, International Relations Officer, EA/J

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Mr. Fearey welcomed Mr. Shikanai, conveying Mr. Bundy's regret that he had been unable to meet with him.

1. The Japan Council for International Understanding — Mr. Shikanai said that the Japan Council for International Understanding (JCIU), of which he is an Executive Member, is a private organization interested in fostering the exchange of persons and ideas between Japan and other countries. While the purposes of the JCIU were spelled out in a report he would leave with Mr. Fearey, he wished to point out that leftist demonstrators and agitators had often frustrated public meetings, as during the 1965 visit of Mr. Rostow and the 1962 visit of Senator Robert Kennedy, when the Senator was Attorney General. The JCIU hopes to create conditions conducive to a frank and uninterrupted exchange of views. Shikanai added that he had come to the United States as a "special envoy" of the JCIU to arrange the establishment of an American counterpart organization and to present three studies prepared by the JCIU concerning an "Asian Development Corporation", trade with Communist China, and Okinawa. Mr. Fearey expressed keen interest in this project and said that he and his associates would read the three studies with much interest.

2. Southeast Asian Development — Referring to the JCIU's report on an "Asian Development Corporation", Mr. Fearey emphasized the importance of Japan's playing a leading role in setting in motion an effective Southeast Asian development plan. This plan should move forward now and not wait until the fighting has stopped. Shikanai said that the Japanese people connect the Southeast Asian

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development plan with the Viet-Nam military situation. The Japanese Government, not wishing to risk its political life, probably will move ahead slowly.

3. Japanese Attitudes on Viet-Nam — Shikanai said U.S.-Japanese relations were never better prior to the development of the present situation in Viet-Nam. "Escalation" of the conflict, particularly the bombing of North Viet-Nam, has resulted in a loss of Japanese sympathy and support for the U.S. The Japanese media have played up the "U.S. escalation" of the conflict while neglecting to mention the Communist direction of the Viet Cong's activities and Viet Cong atrocities. Thanks to Mr. Rostow's visit, some progress has been made in bringing the full picture before the Japanese. The Japanese, however, still do not completely understand the issues involved, and continued efforts by both the U.S. and informed Japanese are needed to fill in the gaps in their knowledge. Mr. Fearey agreed on the importance of this joint effort. The U.S. will continue to contribute all it can but main reliance must be on responsible Japanese leaders and media. Education of Japanese in the realities of the Communist-Free World conflict must be mainly by Japanese — not by outsiders, who will always be considered prejudiced.

4. Okinawa — Shikanai said that it was important for the U.S. position in Okinawa that the conservatives win the forthcoming November election for the Okinawan legislature. He said that he had arranged with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in Japan to extend financial aid to Okinawan conservatives, and had urged Prime Minister Sato to visit Okinawa before the November election as an indication of LDP support for Okinawan conservatives. In his meetings with Congressmen Morgan, McCormack, Zablocki and Matsunaga on July 13 he had urged that a Congressional delegation visit Okinawa before the election. Mr. Fearey said that we were extremely conscious of the importance of the November election and welcomed Prime Minister Sato's acceptance of the High Commissioner's invitation to visit Okinawa.

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